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ABSTRACT

Fifth of a series, this report presents the results of a nationwide 1986 survey of state regulatory systems for family day care services. Findings indicate that in most states the number of regulated providers has increased dramatically since the 1984 study, while federal and state funding has decreased, making regulatory efforts more difficult. Lack of adequate funds also resulted in lack of training resources for family day care providers. Less than a quarter of all states required any training and even that required may be restricted in content or required only for providers receiving public funds. States increasingly are developing separate regulations for group family day care, recognizing the growth of this form of child care and acting to improve it. Survey data were obtained through telephone interviews, were verified when possible, and were collected on all 50 states and the District of Columbia. In addition to indicating the number of homes regulated, most states provided information about (1) regulations and requirements; (2) inspection, training, and orientation; (3) provider qualifications; (4) criminal record checks/fingerprints; (5) discipline/corporal punishment; and (6) zoning. Special provisions on other topics are mentioned in some reports. All reports provide a contact person's name, address, telephone number and institutional affiliation. (RH)

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1986 Family Day Care Licensing Study

Family Day Care Advocacy Project

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INTRODUCTION

The 1986 Family Day Care Licensing Study contains the results of a nationwide survey of regulatory systems. This is the fifth such survey conducted by The Children's Foundation since 1976.

Our findings indicate that in most states, the number of regulated providers has increased dramatically since our 1984 Study. At the same time, unfortunately, federal and state money has decreased, making it all the more difficult for regulatory people to do even routine monitoring. Shortage of funding also results in lack of training resources for family day care providers. Less than a quarter of all states require any type of training at all. Those that do require training may require it only for providers whose programs receive public funds, or may require training only in basic first aid.

Another finding of this study is that more and more states are developing separate regulations for group family day care. Group family day care has many advantages for everyone involved--providers are able to increase their earnings; parents have more flexibility in their child care arrangements; and children have the benefit of an extended family environment. It is apparent that legislators and licensing specialists are recognizing the growth of this form of child care and are taking steps to regulate and improve it.

The 1986 Study initially was done by telephone interviews. After information was collected on all fifty states and the District of Columbia, we sent proof sheets back to the regulatory agencies for verification. An asterisk (*) by the name of a state indicates that the response to our mailing did not reach us in time for publication, and that therefore the information printed for that state has not been double-checked by that state's regulatory agency.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the regulatory specialists across the country who gave us so much time out of their busy schedules to answer survey questions.

The following people were instrumental in producing this publication: Julie Ainslie, Kay Hollestelle, Miebeth Janssen, Ann Mouchette, Margaret Nash and Maribeth Oakes.

It is our hope that this study will be of great help to all child care advocates who are working for positive change in the lives of providers, parents and children.

December 1986

ALABAMA

Address: June Perry
Bureau of Family and Children's Services
64 North Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130
205/261-5785

There are approximately 2,600 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

The state of Alabama requires licensing; there is no fee. The staff/child ratio is 1-6, family members not included. Liability insurance is not required for licensing.

A substitute caregiver system is required before a license is granted; however, the substitute does not need a license.

There is no provision in the statute for group homes.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Homes are inspected before a license is granted and there are subsequent on-site visits annually, more often if necessary. No advance notice is required for an on-site visit.

Licensing includes a training requirement. Orientation for prospective providers is not a requirement but is conducted in some counties.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. A physical exam is required before a provider may begin operating and every 4 years thereafter. Physical exams are required for family members initially only if they are involved with the care of the children.

Three written references are required for licensing.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

It is anticipated that a new law will require fingerprinting of the provider for a fee of $20, carried out by the State Department of Public Safety.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

ALASKA

Address: Jacquelyn Damon
Box H-05
Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Family and Youth Services
Juneau, AK 99811
907-465-3209 (36)

There are 489 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

The state of Alaska requires licensing for family day care providers when 6 children are in care. The provider/child ratio is 1 to 6 for unrelated children, with no more than 2 children under the age of 30 months. There is no fee for licensing. Liability insurance is not required.

Substitute caregivers are required before a provider is granted a license; substitutes are not required to be licensed.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Inspection of the day care home must occur before a license is granted. Subsequent visits are conducted biennially. Advance notice is given for inspections.

Training in first aid and C.P.R. is required for licensing. Orientation is provided for prospective providers.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. Physical exams are required of prospective providers only if deemed necessary. Three written references are required.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

Potential providers and other adults in the household must sign a statement certifying that they have no criminal record. No fingerprinting or additional record checks are required.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is limited and requires parental consent.

Special Provisions

Special training and funding are provided for caregivers who include disabled children/infants in their care.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

ARIZONA

Address: Jackie Bennett
Day Care Specialist
Arizona Department of Economic Security
1400 West Washington (940A)
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-255-3981

There are 976 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Family day care homes that care for DES-subsidized children must be certified. The provider may care for up to 4 unrelated children. There is no charge for the certification. If a provider keeps 5 or more children, she must be licensed as a center, under the jurisdiction of the Health Department, and must meet all those requirements.

Liability insurance is no longer required.

The names of substitute caregivers must be submitted upon certification. These caregivers are certified as back-up providers and must have a criminal record check and fingerprinting done.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Home inspections occur before certification. Subsequent visits occur quarterly, sometimes unannounced and sometimes with advance notice. Training is not required now, but it is anticipated that it will be with regulation change in 1987. Voluntary training is available and is strongly encouraged. An orientation session is required for prospective providers.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. A physical exam is required before a provider can begin operating her business. Three references are required.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

There is a criminal record check and fingerprint check required of the prospective provider and family members or other residents of the home 18 years of age or over. The fee is $14 per person, which the provider must pay.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local zoning ordinances.

ARKANSAS

Address: Kathy Stegall
Arkansas Social Services
P.O. Box 1437
Little Rock, AR 72203
501-371-5001

There are 600 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Licensing is required if the provider cares for more than 6 children or children from more than 4 families. There is no licensing fee. One caregiver may have up to 10 children if all are over the age of 3. If 2 children are under age 2, there may be up to 7 in the home. Two providers may care for up to 16 children in one home. Preschool family members are included in the group size.

Liability insurance is not required but highly recommended. Substitute caregivers are included in the license of the primary caregiver.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

A family day care home must be inspected before being granted a license. There are subsequent inspections 4 times per year conducted at random with no advance notice.

Training is not required but highly recommended. There is no orientation program for prospective providers.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 21 and not more than 65 years of age. Some exceptions are granted after special consideration. An annual physical exam is required of the provider and the adult family members in the family day care home.

Three written references are required for licensing.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

Criminal record checks and fingerprinting are not required.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited for children under the age of 3 and requires parental consent for older children.

Zoning

Day care homes are exempt from zoning ordinances.

CALIFORNIA

Address: Connie Kundert
State Department of Social Services
Community Care Licensing
744 P Street - M/S 19-50 Central Operation
Sacramento, CA 93814
916-324-4031

There are 34,000 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Providers must be licensed; there is no fee. The provider/child ratio is 1 to 6, with no more than 2 infants when there are a total of 6 children, including family members. There may be no more than 4 infants total. Liability insurance is not required.

Group homes (large family day care homes) staff ratio is 2-12 with an assistant.

Regulations include a section on parental involvement, which states that parents have access to their children at any time.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Licensing requires an announced inspection before the license is granted. There are subsequent unannounced visits every three years, or whenever a complaint is issued.

No training is required, although voluntary training programs are available.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. There is no physical exam required, except a T.B. test.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

A criminal record check, fingerprinting, and a Child Abuse Index check are required for every person over age 18 who regularly resides in the family day care home. There is no fee for these checks, which are conducted by the California Department of Justice.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited. There are no written guidelines for disciplining children, but methods of discipline are discussed at orientation and before licensing occurs.

Zoning

Day care homes are considered residential use of property for purposes of zoning ordinances.

COLORADO

Address: Elizabeth Kester
Family and Children's Services
Colorado Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 181000
Denver, CO 80218-0899
303-294-5700

There are 5,800 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Caregivers who provide care for 2 or more children from more than 1 family on more than 2 consecutive days are required to be licensed. There is a biennial fee of $10.00. The provider/child ratio is 1 to 6 including family members, plus an additional 2 before and after school children. Liability insurance is not required.

Group homes are considered small centers and have a separate set of regulations. The staff/child ratio is 1 to 6. The fee for licensing a group home is $10 if it is a proprietary center and $2 if it is a non-profit organization.

A substitute caregiver is required before a provider is licensed. The substitute provider need not be licensed.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Family day care homes are inspected before licensing. Subsequent visits occur 2 or 3 times annually or whenever there is a complaint.

Initial provider training is required. Orientation for prospective providers is not required but usually occurs.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. An initial physical exam followed by biennial exams are required of the provider and the family members in the day care home. Three written references are required.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

No criminal record checks or fingerprinting are required of the provider or the provider's family members.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited. There are specific methods of discipline that are permitted.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances, which may include a special use permit and/or a fee.

CONNECTICUT

Address: Janet Chisholm
Department of Human Resources - Day Care
110 Bartholomew Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
203-566-2893

There are 3,300 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Registration is required for family day care homes. The provider/child ratio is 1 to 6 including the provider's own children not in school full time. A single provider may care for no more than 2 infants in the group at a time. However, with an assistant present a provider may care for as many as 6 infants.

Liability insurance is not required. Group homes are regulated by the Health Department. Substitute caregivers must pass screenings similar to the providers.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Day care homes are inspected before registration. There are subsequent monitoring visits conducted without advance notice. No training or orientation is required. Investigation and inspection is made in response to every complaint.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 20 years of age. Initial and biennial physical exams are required of the provider, and initial exams for household members. References are required. Protective service records are checked for the provider and all adult household members.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

A criminal record check with State Police is required of the provider and household members. There is no cost to the provider.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances. Special use permits and fees vary from town to town.

DELAWARE

Address: Pauline Koch
Division of Program Planning and Productivity
Dept. of Family Services for Children and Youth
330 E. 30th Street
Wilmington, DE 19802
302-571-6436

There are 736 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Family day care providers are required to complete a self-certification process. The provider/child ratio is 1 to 6, including family members under school age. No more than 4 of the 6 may be under 2 years of age. Group homes must have 2 providers and may have from 7 to 11 children.

Liability insurance is not required for family day care homes but is for group homes. Parents must be given a copy of the family day care regulations by the provider. Parents have free access to their children at all times, and children can be released only to their parents.

There is a substitute caregiver system required before certification. The substitute caregiver need not be certified. Her/his name, address and phone number must be on file in the primary provider's residence.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

An initial, announced inspection of the family day care home occurs within 90 days of certification. Following that visit there is an annual unannounced visit. Six hours of orientation/ training are required for prospective providers.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. An initial physical exam is required of the provider. Subsequent exams are required only if the provider has an ongoing health problem. Physical exams are required of the provider's family members who have direct contact with children in care and children under the age of 6 years living in the home. Three written references are required for certification.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

A child abuse registry check is done on the potential provider before certification and s/he is required to list any criminal offenses s/he has committed as well as those committed by family members.

(continued)

DELAWARE (continued)

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited. Positive reinforcement is encouraged as a method of child management.

Special Provisions

Child care regulations allow a provider to care for up to 2 children over capacity for up to 2 hours per day due to change in shifts or school-age care.

Zoning

In most cases, day care homes are exempt from zoning regulations. In a few areas a special permit and fee is required.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Address: Herman L. Cook
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
Service Facility, Regulation Administration
614 H Street, N.W., Room 1031
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 727-7226

There are 350 regulated homes.

Regulations and Requirements

Licensing is required for family day care providers. The provider/child ratio is 1 to 5, no more than 2 of whom may be infants, including family members under the age of 6.

Liability insurance is not required for licensing.

There currently is no allowance for family day care group homes, but amendments to the regulations are being developed.

There is a substitute caregiver system required before licensing. The substitute caregiver must meet the same qualifications as the primary care provider.

Providers must have a policy statement which addresses their rules for operating. A fire drill plan and emergency first aid is also required.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Inspections of day care homes are required before licensing. Subsequent visits are conducted annually. No advance notice is required. No training is required. A brief, over-the-phone orientation is required for prospective providers. Amendments to the regulations are currently in development to address training; final plans are under way to develop a monthly orientation for prospective family day care providers.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 and no more than 71 years of age. An initial physical exam is required of the provider as well as an annual physical exam of the provider and any family members who are in the day care home while the children are present.

Three written references are required for licensing.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is discouraged.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

FLORIDA

Address: Pamela Hutchinson
Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services
Children, Youth and Families Program Office
1317 Winewood Boulevard
Building 8, Room 320
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(904) 485-4900

There are 1,942 licensed family day care homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Licensed family day care homes consist of up to 5 children and one provider. Additional before-and-after school children are permitted, as long as the total number of children in a home never exceeds 10.

Liability insurance is not required.

Only 7 of Florida's 67 counties require the licensure of family day care homes. Homes that are not required to be licensed must register with the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. Registered homes are not regulated.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Homes are inspected prior to licensure and semi-annually thereafter.

Basic 3-hour training which includes the identification of child abuse and neglect is required.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age and be of good moral character.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

A fingerprint check is required of all providers.

GEORGIA

Address: Eugene Calhoun
Family Day Care Licensing
878 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 808
Atlanta, GA 30309
404/894-5688

There are 6,000 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Registration of family day care homes is on a voluntary basis and requires no fee. A provider may care for between 3 and 6 children, not including family members. In a group home there may be between 7 and 18 children.

Liability insurance is not required.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

No initial inspection of the day care home is required, but homes are inspected at random, periodically. No advance notice is necessary. First aid training is required.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 21 years of age.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

Fingerprinting and a criminal record check are required of both the provider and family members. The cost of each separately is $12.00 for the provider and $3.00 for other adults.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local zoning ordinances.

HAWAII

Address: Jane Okubo
Department of Social Services and Housing
P.O. Box 339
Honolulu, HI 96809
808-548-2302

Regulations and Requirements

Registration is required. There is no fee for registration, but providers can purchase a rule book for $12.95. A provider may care for up to 5 children, with no more than 2 under the age of 2, including family members under age 6.

Group homes have 6 or more children, with a staff/child ratio of 1 to 8 for 2-year-olds; 1 to 12 for 3-year-olds; 1 to 16 for 4-year-olds; and 1 to 20 for 5 and older. All children must be over the age of 24 months.

Liability insurance is not required. Providers must inform parents whether it is available or not.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Day care homes are inspected before registration. Subsequent inspections occur annually or whenever there is a complaint. Advance notice of a visit is not necessary.

Training is not required, but the provider is encouraged to make the effort to receive training. Orientation for prospective providers is on a one-to-one basis.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. Providers and family members are required to take a physical examination and clearance for tuberculosis at the time of registration. No subsequent exams are required. Two written references are required.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

Criminal record checks and fingerprinting are conducted for both the provider and family members, in addition to a check into the family's child abuse background and the provider's employment history for the 3 years preceding application.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited. Providers are not to use humiliation or the intention to inflict pain or fear.

Special Provisions

Special training is required for providers with disabled children in their care.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

IDAHO

Address: Perry Ackerman
State Department of Health and Welfare
450 West State Street
Boise, ID 83720
208-334-5702

Regulations and Requirements

Idaho does not have a mandatory day care licensing law. A provider who wishes to do so may be licensed voluntarily. Some cities in Idaho have passed mandatory day care licensing ordinances to fill the void in the state law.

There is a substitute caregiver system required before licensing. Since it is the facility that is licensed, not the staff, a substitute provider does not have to be licensed. The substitute must be at least 18 years old.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

An initial inspection is part of the licensing study. Annual relicensing visits are conducted along with 6-month revisit studies. Fire and health inspections are not required for family day care homes with 1-4 children.

There is no training or orientation required.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. No physical exams are required of either the provider or the provider's family. However, a physician's reference is required for the provider. Three references are required.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

Criminal record checks, though not required by State law, are done. In some cities with local day care ordinances, they are required.

Discipline

No child is to be subjected to cruel, severe, unusual or unnecessary punishment inflicted upon the body or verbal abuse, threats, or derogatory remarks about the child or his/her family. Methods of discipline must be posted in each family day care home.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

ILLINOIS*

Address: Tom Felder
Licensing Specialist
1 North Old State Capital Plaza
Springfield, IL 62706
217-785-5557

There are 5,053 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Family day care providers are required to be licensed. No fee is required. The provider/child ratio is 1 to 8 with no more than 3 children under the age of 2. Liability insurance is not required.

There is a substitute caregiver system required before a license is granted to a provider. Substitute caregivers do not need to be licensed.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Inspections of the home occur before licensing and annually thereafter and may be unannounced. There is no training or orientation required.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. An initial physical exam, followed by exams every two years, are required of the provider and the provider's family. Three references, either oral or written, are required.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

At present no criminal record check is required, but there is legislation to that effect pending.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Special Provisions

If there are 3 or more infants in a day care home, the provider must have an assistant.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

*Information unable to be verified by printing date.

INDIANA

Address: Keith Carver
Indiana State Dept. of Public Welfare
141 South Meridian Street, 6th Floor
Indianapolis, IN 46225
317-232-4521

There are 1,213 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Family day care providers are required to be licensed if they care for 6 or more children. There is no fee for licensing and liability insurance is not required.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Day care homes must be inspected before licensing. Subsequent visits occur annually and do not require advance notice. No training or orienatation is required.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. A physical exam is required of the provider. Three written references are necessary for licensing.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

The regulations include a provision for conducting a criminal record check, but it is not mandatory. The cost of the check is $7.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited in day care centers, but not family day care homes.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

Address: Harold Poore
Iowa Department of Human Services
Hoover State Office Bldg. - 5th Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319
515-281-6074

There are 2,751 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Registration for family day care homes is on a voluntary basis. There is no fee for registration. The provider-child ratio is 1 to 6, including preschool family members. Group homes are required to be registered, and must have a second staff person if 7 or more children are present for 2 or more hours at a time.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Inspection is not required before registration. 20 percent of family day care homes are spot-checked each year.

Day care providers must have 2 hours of training every 5 years in dealing with child abuse issues.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. A provider must have a physician's signed statement, obtained at the first registration and at least every three years thereafter, on all members of the provider's household, stating that the provider and members of the household are free of disease or disabilities which would prevent good child care.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

A criminal record check is done on both the provider and the provider's family members. No fingerprinting is necessary.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is not prohibited. No discipline shall be used which is physically or emotionally harmful to a child.

Zoning

Zoning requirements are not a part of registration requirements.

KANSAS

Address: Shirley Norris
Department of Health and Environment
Bureau of Maternal and Child Health
Forbes Field, Building 729
Topeka, KS 66620
913-862-9360

There are 3,500 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Family day care providers who care for 6 or fewer children must be registered at an annual fee of $5. Those who care for 7 to 10 children must be licensed at an annual fee of $15.

The family day care regulations include a section allowing parents total access to their children in the day care home.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Inspection is required for family day care homes that wish to become licensed, but not those wishing to become registered. There are subsequent annual visits.

A minimal amount of training is required on an annual basis for caregivers operating in group homes. None is required for those in family day care homes.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. An initial physical exam is required before the provider can begin operating.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

A criminal record check, but not fingerprinting, is done on both the provider and the provider's family members. There is no fee for this check.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is not prohibited. Methods of discipline shall be appropriate to the age and developmental level of the child. Punishment shall not be humiliating, frightening, or physically or mentally harmful to the child.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

Address: Jean Cole
Division of Licensing and Regulations
Cabinet for Human Resources
275 East Main Street
CHR Bldg. - 4th Floor East
Frankfort, KY 40621
502-564-2800

There are 207 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Licensing is required for family day care homes. Providers may care for 4-13 children under this license. If there is 1 child who is 2 years of age or younger, a provider may care for no more than 6 children. If the youngest child is between 2 and 3 years of age, the provider may have up to 10 children. If there are more than 10 preschool children, the provider must have an assistant.

The initial licensing fee is $50, followed by an annual fee of $25.

Liability insurance is required for licensing.

A provider must have a minimum of 2 caregivers as substitute providers.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Family day care homes must be inspected before being licensed. Subsequent visits occur quarterly when necessary and when time permits.

Caregiver training is required.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. A current (within the past year) negative T.B. report is required on the provider, assistants, and all adults who live in the home.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprinting

Criminal record checks are required of providers.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited. The provider's discipline methods must be in writing and must adhere to family day care regulations.

LOUISIANA

Address: David Hall
State Dept. of Education
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
504-342-3698

There are 5,200 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Family day care providers are required to be registered. There is an annual fee of $35.00 to obtain registration. The provider/child ratio is 1 to 6, not including family members.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

An inspection is required before a family day care home is registered. The initial inspection is followed up by other visits, either announced or unannounced.

All providers receive instruction in recordkeeping. There is also annual training required. Prospective providers must participate in orientation.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. There is no regulation requiring a physical examination of the provider or the provider's family.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

At present no criminal record check or fingerprinting is required.

Discipline

The use of corporal punishment requires parental consent.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

MAINE

Address: Mildred Hart
Department of Human Services
Social Services Unit
State House Station 11
Augusta, ME 04333
207-289-5060

There are 1,000 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Anyone providing care for 3 or more unrelated children is required either to be licensed or registered; the individual provider may choose. A single caregiver may provide care for 4 children under the age of 2; or for 8 children over the age of 2 plus 2 school-age children; or 6 children where no more than 3 are under the age of 2, in addition to 2 school-age children.

A home may have 2 caregivers providing for 8 children under the age of 2; or 12 children over the age of 2; or 12 children of mixed ages where no more than 3 are under the age of 2. A home may have 3 caregivers providing for 12 children under the age of 2; or 12 children over the age of 2; or 12 children of mixed ages where no more than 9 are under the age of 2.

Licensed providers pay a $10 fee annually; registered providers pay a fee of $20 every two years.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Inspections are required before a home is licensed. The initial inspection is followed by biannual visits. Advance notice of inspections usually is given, except in cases where the inspection is carried out as a result of a complaint. Training is not required. There is no orientation required.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. An initial physical exam and TB test are required of the licensed provider. Physicals are then required every 3 years. Family members must have physicals if they are involved in the care of the children. Registered providers are required to take a TB test only. Three written references are required for licensing but not for registration.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

Applicants are checked to see if they are known to Child Protective Services.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local regulations.

MARYLAND

Address: Helena Hicks
Family Day Care Licensing
Social Services Administration
300 West Preston
Baltimore, MD 21201
301-576-5284

There are 7,000 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Registration is required for family day care providers. There is no fee for this registration. The provider/child ratio is 1 to 6 including family members. No more than 2 children may be under the age of 2.

Group homes are licensed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Liability insurance is not required; a new law requires insurance companies to offer liability insurance for home and care to all providers.

Providers are required to give parents a copy of the pamphlet entitled "Family Day Care - A Guide to Parents."

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Inspection is required before a home is registered. Subsequent visits occur unannounced whenever there is a complaint. No training is required apart from the orientation process.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. A physical exam is required of the provider at the time of registration. Physical exams are required of all household members. Three written references are required.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

A criminal record check is required of the provider and family members over the age of 18.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

MASSACHUSETTS

Address: Martha Milton
Day Care Director
Office for Children
150 Causeway Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
617-727-8956

There are 9,300 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Family day care providers are required to be registered. There is no registration fee. The provider/child ratio is 1 to 6 including family members. If there are more than 2 infants, an approved assistant is required.

Liability insurance is not required.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Family day care homes are not inspected before registration, but are inspected annually thereafter. Visits can be at random and with no advance notice.

No training is required. There is no orientation required for prospective providers.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. A provider and the provider's family members must have physical examinations within 3 years of registration.

Two written references are required. If the provider applying for the license has been employed outside the home within the past five years, one of the references must be from an employee.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

Criminal record checks are done on the provider and on all family members 17 years of age and older.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances. The use of special use permits varies from town to town. Fees run from $25 to $125.

Address: Ted de Wolf
Day Care Licensing
Michigan Dept. of Social Services
300 South Capital Avenue, Suite 1020
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-8300

There are 8,923 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Family day care providers are required to be registered. There is no registration fee. The provider/child ratio is 1 to 6, including family members under the age of 7.

Group homes must be licensed. Liability insurance is not required. A provider must have a substitute caregiver in case of emergencies.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Family day care homes are inspected within 90 days of receiving certification. After the initial inspection there is a 10% random sampling of homes annually. Visits generally are scheduled unless the nature of a complaint warrants an unannounced visit.

There is no training required. Orientation is required for family day care providers.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. A statement signed by a licensed physician is required before a caregiver can provide care and every two years thereafter. This statement is to refer to the caregiver's mental and physical capacity in handling children. Caregivers over the age of 65 must provide such a statement annually. The provider and family members over the age of 14 must take a T.B. test.

Three written references are required.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

A criminal record check, but not fingerprinting, is required of the provider and family members over the age of 18.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local zoning ordinances.

MINNESOTA

Address: Karen Carlson
Non-Residential Licensing Section
Department of Public Welfare
Centennial Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
612-296-3024

There are 9,574 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Family day care providers are required to be licensed. There is no licensing fee. The provider/child ratio is 1 to 5 when there are no more than 3 infants; 1 to 6 when there are no more than 2 infants; 1 to 10 when there are no more than 2 infants, or no more than 3 infants and toddlers, and at least 4 children of school age. These ratios include the provider's own children who are under age 10. Group homes have special licensing requirements.

Liability insurance is strongly encouraged. If a provider has insurance less than $100,000 per person and $250,000 per occurrence, a written notice of the level of coverage must be given to and signed by the parents of each child in care and kept in the provider's records.

Substitute caregivers are restricted to 30 days within any 12 month period.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Family day care homes must be inspected before licensing. Subsequent visits occur annually at relicensing. Advance notice is given for relicensing.

No training is required before license is granted; however, the provider must have nine hours of CPR within one year of or one year prior to licensing as well as six hours of child development.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. Both the provider and all adult caregivers who are assisting with care on a regular basis must have a physical exam within 12 months of licensing.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

Record checks are required. The charge for the record check varies and some counties will pay the fee for the provider.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

MISSISSIPPI

Address: Jane Emling
Child Care Service Director
State Board of Health
P.O. Box 1700
Jackson, MS 39215-1700
601/982-6505

Regulations and Requirements

Licensing is required for homes where there are six or more children. There is an annual registration fee of $25.00. Liability insurance is not required.

Family Group Homes can serve up to 15 children.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Inspections take place before a license is granted and twice a year thereafter.

Training is not required. There is no orientation process.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age.

MISSOURI

Address: Pat Wojciehowski
State Child Care Licensing
Division of Family Services
P.O. Box 88
Jefferson City, MO 65103
314-751-2450

There are 1,225 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Licensing is required. Group size is up to 10 children. The provider may care for only 2 children under the age of 2 without an assistant. With an assistant present, a provider may care for 4 children under 2 and 6 children over 2.

Liability insurance is not required.

Parents are required to sign a statement indicating that they have seen a copy of the Licensing Rules.

A substitute caregiver is required before a license is given.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Inspections occur before a license is granted. There are 2 supervisory visits and a renewal inspection required. More are conducted if necessary. Providers must attend an orientation session.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. Physical exams are necessary for provider and any family member who is a part of the business. Providers must present three written references.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

MONTANA

Address: Charlie McCarthy
Department of Social and Rehabilitive Service
P.O. Box 4210
Helena, Montana 59604
406-444-3865

There are 475 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Homes are registered for 1-6 children, including family members. There is no fee for registration. Group homes, which also must be registered, permit up to 12 children with 2 caregivers.

Liability insurance is required by law.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

No inspection is required before registration. Fifteen percent of the homes are inspected annually.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. Three written or oral references are required.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

NEBRASKA

Address: Deb Dawson
Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509
402-471-3121

There are 1,992 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

There is a self-certification process for family day care providers at a cost of $25 which must be renewed every 2 years. Providers may care for up to 8 children, including family members under the age of 8. No more than 2 children may be under the age of 18 months.

Group homes consist of 2 providers and 9 to 12 children, or of 8 or fewer children if more than 2 are under the age of 18 months. Group homes must be inspected by the Fire Marshal, Department of Health, and the Department of Social Services. The fee for group homes is $25.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

For family day care, there is a self-administered home inspection prior to certification. Random inspections are made of 5 percent of the homes annually. Family day care providers are not required to have formal training.

Group home providers must meet one of the following:

- 2 years professional experience
- 1 year in group home care experience
- 2 credit hours or 20 clock hours in early childhood education.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 19 years of age. Physical exams include a blood test and urinalysis. Three written references are required.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment in the form of an open hand on the buttocks is allowed in family day care homes with written permission from parents. Corporal punishment is prohibited in group homes.

NEVADA

Address: Patricia J. Hedgecoth, Chief
Bureau of Services for Child Care
505 E. King Street, Room 606
Carson City, NE 89710
702/885-5911

Regulations and Requirements

Licensing is required by State law when caring for 5 or more children for compensation. Family care homes may have up to 6 children, not including family members. A fee of fifty cents per child is charged as well as a $5 application fee.

Group homes consist of 2 caregivers and 7 to 12 children.

Liability insurance is required.

Caregivers are required to give the name and phone number of a substitute provider. Substitutes are not required to be licensed.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Initial inspections occur before a license is granted. Subsequent inspections occur throughout the year with a minimum of 2 per year. These inspections are random and providers are not given advance notice.

Providers must take an initial three hours of training within the first six months of licensing, then take three hours of continuing education annually.

An orientation class is also required, given by the facility.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. Assistants must be at least 16 years of age and have a Child Development course. Physical exams are not required, but every provider must have a TB test, renewable every 2 years.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

FBI background checks are conducted on all licensees and adult family members living in the home.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Address: Maurice A. Demers
Licensing Supervisor
Bureau of Child Care, Standards and Licensing
Health and Welfare Building
6 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301-6527
603-271-4624

There are 426 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Licensing is required. Family day care homes may have up to 6 children, including family members. No more than 2 children may be under the age of 2, and no more than 3 may be under the age of 3. If 4 children are under the age of 3, a total of only 5 children may be cared for. Group homes consist of 2 caregivers and 7 to 12 children.

A substitute caregiver is required.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

All day care homes must be inspected by health and fire departments. Inspections by the licensing department occur before a license is granted and twice during the two-year license period. At least one inspection must be unannounced.

Training is not required but is available upon request. Group family day care providers who are under 21 years of age must have a high school child care vocational course.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 and not more than 70 years of age. Physical exams are required every two years.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

In-state criminal and child abuse record checks are required for the provider and for anyone in the home over 18 years of age. Fingerprints are not used.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited as is punishment which is humiliating, shaming, frightening or otherwise damaging to children. Children's behavior shall be supported with positive guidance.

Address: Sally Duff
NJ Family Day Care Organization
Children's Home Society
924 Parkside Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08618
(609) 695-6274

There are 3,000 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Registration is required only for those homes in programs that receive federal funds. The maximum number of children allowed in the homes is five, no more than 2 of whom may be under the age of 2 years.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Training is required for homes receiving federal funds. The specific training requirements vary from county to county.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprinting

A criminal record check, but not fingerprinting, is done on each provider.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances. There is legislation pending that may exempt homes in the future.

NEW MEXICO

Address: Health and Environment Department
Health Services Division
Licensing, Health Related Facilities Section
P.O. Box 968
Santa Fe, NM 87504-0968
(505) 827-2444

There are 269 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Family day care homes may have 1 provider and up to 6 children, no more than 2 of whom may be under the age of 2, and including the provider's children who are under the age of 6. There is a $15 annual licensing fee.

A family day care home also may consist of 2 providers and 7 to 12 children, no more than 4 of whom may be under the age of 2, and again including family members under the age of 6.

Liability insurance is not required.

If there are more than six children in a home a substitute is necessary.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Inspections occur before a home is licensed and once every year thereafter.

Training and orientation are not required.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. An initial physical exam is required.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

Both record checks and fingerprinting of any household member over 18 years of age are required. Each cost $14.00 per person.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Address: Betty Flynn
Department of Social Services
Family and Children Services
40 N. Pearl Street, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12243
518/474-3166

There are 3,633 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Licensing is required. Family day care homes may have 3 to 6 children, no more than 2 of whom may be under the age of 2. There may be no more than 5 children if at least 1 child is under the age of 3. Two additional children of school age may be cared for in the family day care home provided the agency approves the increased capacity. There is no cost for the license.

In group homes 2 adults provide care for up to 10 children including not more than 4 children under the age of 2, or up to 12 if all children are over the age of two. Two additional children of school age may be cared for before and after school hours. A new law was enacted in 1986 making group family day care a permanent program effective January 1, 1987. Regulations are being developed currently to establish standards for group family day care.

Liability insurance is not required.

Law requires that parents have unlimited access to their children while in the family day care home.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Homes are inspected prior to issuing and renewing licenses. If there is a complaint, a home may be inspected without advance notice to the provider. No training is required. No orientation is required.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. Physical exams are required prior to issuing and renewing licenses. References are required.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

Providers must sign a sworn statement indicating whether, to the best of their knowledge, they have ever been convicted of a crime in New York State or any other jurisdiction.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

NORTH CAROLINA

Address: Division of Facility Services
Child Day Care Section
701 Barbour Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603
919/733-4801

There are 6,033 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Registration is required; beginning January 1, 1987 homes will be required to meet health, saftey and sanitation requirements to be licensed. There is no fee. A provider can have 2-5 children, including their own preschoolers. Liability insurance is not necessary.

Group homes are not permitted.

Substitutes will be required under the new regulations, but are not required under the current system of registration. Substitutes will not need to be registered, but must be on file in the day care home.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Homes are inspected only if there is a complaint. There are no training requirements.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. Providers must have a biannual T.B. test.

Discipline

Providers must refrain from corporal punishment, putting children in locked rooms, withholding food.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

NORTH DAKOTA

Address: Paul Ronningen
Office of Human Services
North Dakota Office of Human Services
State Capital Building
Bismarck, ND 58505
701/224-4809

There are 1,271 family day care and 477 group regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

A license is required for 6 or more children, none of whom may be under two months of age, or for 4 children under twenty four months of age. No more than 7 children are allowed. The license costs $20.

Group Homes
Staff ratios: 1:4--under two years
1:5--2 and 3 year olds
1:10-4 and 5 year olds
1:12-5 and 6 year olds

Parents must make a pre-enrollment visit and must be allowed free access to the day care home.

Providers must have a back-up; the substitute does not need to be licensed.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Homes are inspected prior to licensing and every six months thereafter. Education requirements for different levels of care (number of children) vary.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. Initial and annual physical exams are required.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited. Time out is encouraged.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

* Some of the above licensing requirements will be modified by law in January 1987. For more information, contact the North Dakota Office of Human Services.

OHIO

Address: Pauline Hosenfeld
Child Care Regulatory Unit
Ohio Department of Human Services
30 E. Broad Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 466-3822

There are 3,000 Type B homes which are certified by local departments of human services.

Regulations and Requirements

Licensing is required for family day care homes caring for 7 to 12 children including the provider's own under the age of 6 and no more than 3 of whom may be under the age of 2; or, 4 to 12 children including the provider's own under the age of 6 when 4 or more of the children are under the age of 2. These are Type A Homes.

Certification by the county Departments of Human Services is required for family day care homes that receive public funds and care for 1 to 6 children including the provider's own under the age of 6 and no more than 3 of whom may be under the age of 2. These are Type B Homes.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

All homes are inspected twice each year.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age.

Zoning

Type B homes have the right to operate in any neighborhood that is zoned "residential." Type A homes may be excluded by zoning requirements.

OKLAHOMA

Address: Prins Anderson
Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 25352
Oklahoma City, OK 73125
405/521-3561

There are 1,024 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Licensing is required; there is no fee. A home may have no more than five children. Insurance is required for transportation.

A licensed provider must have a substitute caregiver; the substitute need not be licensed.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Inspections occur initially and quarterly. Training is not required.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. An initial physical exam is required. Three written references are required.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

Address: Karen Moffat
Day Care Unit
Children's Services Division
198 Commercial Street, S.E.
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 378-3178

There are 3,100 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Registration is voluntary and there is no fee. A provider may have up to 5 day care children with no more than 2 under the age of 2.

Group Homes are when 6 to 12 children are in care. They are required to be certified and a home visit is made. Group homes are certified under the same rules as day care centers. Family day care registration is done under a different set of rules.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

No inspections are done and no training is required. A 1-1/2 hour orientation session is required.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

PENNSYLVANIA

Address: Susan Miller
Day Care Division
Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation
Health & Welfare Building, Room 529
P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105
(717) 783-6196

There are 3,637 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Registration is required for homes providing care for 4 to 6 children, no more than 4 of whom may be under 3 years of age. Providers caring for fewer than 4 children are exempt from regulation.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

A random inspection of 20% of registered homes is conducted annually.

No training or orientation is required.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. Each caregiver must have a medical examination every 2 years.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

Child Abuse Registry clearances and State Police clearances are required.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local zoning ordinances.

RHODE ISLAND

Address: Dept. for Children and Their Families
Division of Community Services
Day Care Licensing
610 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
(401) 457-4495

There are 350 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Providers are certified at no cost; certification is renewable every two years. Providers may care for up to 6 children, no more than 2 of whom may be under 2 years of age. If a provider has a full time assistant, they may be certified for up to 8 children, no more than 4 of whom may be under 2 years of age.

Parents must have unlimited access to the day care program.

Providers must list two people they can call for emergencies. Those people do not need to be licensed.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Homes are inspected prior to certification and at renewal. Each quarter 10% of certified homes are checked.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. Providers must have physical exams at certification and at renewal.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

A statewide check is made on all adults in the provider's home. Fingerprinting for a nationwide FBI check is required for providers and assistants. This is done at no cost to the individual.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Address: Hallieque J. Lamb
Office of Children and Family Services
South Carolina Department of Social Services
Post Office Box B-1520, Room 507-24
Columbia, SC 29202
803/734-5740

There are 100 licensed and 800 registered homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Licensing is required for those receiving public funds; other homes must be registered. There is no fee for either. Providers may have up to 6 children including their own children under the age of 12. Group homes are composed of 7-12 children. If there are 9 or more children, or 4 children under the age of 2, another caregiver must be present.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Group homes are inspected prior to licensing and twice a year thereafter. Family day care homes are not inspected unless a complaint has been registered.

Provider Qualifications

Registered homes have no requirements. In group and licensed homes providers must be at least 21 years of age. Providers are required to fill out medical statements when submitting applications. If a medical problem is apparent then a physical exam is required.

Written references from three people who are unrelated to the provider are required.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is permitted in licensed homes with written parental consent.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with zoning regulations.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Address: Clarice Turner
Department of Social Services
Child Protection Division
Kneip Building
700 N. Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
605/773-3227

There are 420 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Registration is required for providers that receive public funds. Staff ratios: 1:5 for children under three years of age
1:8 for children three years and older

Provider's children under the age of six must be counted.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Providers do a self-declaration relating to the safety requirements of the home prior to registration. After that, they are inspected once a year on an unannounced visit.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 21 years of age. Providers must have a TB test and a physical exam before beginning operation. Household members must have TB tests and children under the age of 18 who are living in the house must be appropriately immunized.

Three oral references are required.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprinting

The Department screens the applicant's name against the State Central registry of child abuse/neglect prior to registration.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

TENNESSEE

Address: Licensing Unit
Department of Human Services
Citizens Plaza
400 Deaderick
Nashville, TN 37219
615/741-7129

There are 580 regulated homes.

Regulations and Requirements

Tennessee requires licensing of homes that care for up to 7 children. If more than 4 children are under the age of 2, another adult caregiver must be present. A $5 license is required.

Group homes must have a staff ratio of 1:12. If there is at least one child who is under the age of 3 and/or handicapped, a second adult must be present. If more than 9 children are under the age of 3, a third adult must be present. A license for a group home costs $10 per year.

Liability insurance is required only for transportation.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Homes are inspected prior to licensing and must be visited twice yearly. Homes with provisional licenses must be inspected quarterly. One of the two annual visits is unannounced.

The lead caregiver must receive 2 clock hours of in-service training annually.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. Providers must have a physical exam prior to licensing and be re-examined every three years. Three written references are required.

Discipline

Spanking with an open hand on buttocks is permitted.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

TEXAS

Address: Doug Sanders
Texas Department of Human Services
Licensing Branch 550-W
P.O. Box 2960
Austin, TX 78769
512/450-3263

There are 18,000 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Providers must register at a cost of $35 each year. Providers may have up to 6 preschool children and up to an additional 6 school age children, but never more than 12 children at one time, incuding caregiver's own children. Only 4 infants may be in a home at one time.

A standard booklet must be given to parents.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

None required.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

A criminal record check is done prior to registration, at no cost to the provider. A check is also done for child abuse.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited for children under the age of 5. Corporal punishment may be used by a provider on children over the age of 5, but not with any instrument and only with written parental consent.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

Address: Department of Social Services
620 Goshen Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84104
801/533-4268

There are 1,664 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Licensing is required, with no fee to the provider. Providers must have a licensed substitute.

Group Size

1:4 younger than 2
1:7 age 2
1:15 age 3
1:15 age 4
1:20 age 5
1:25 age 6 and older

In December, 1986 legislation was pending to deregulate family and group family day care entirely. Call the Department of Social Services for an update.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Homes are inspected prior to licensing and twice a year thereafter. Providers must have 15 hours of training per year.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. Annual physical exams are required.

Three oral or written references are required.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

Providers are checked for a record of child abuse.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

VERMONT

Address: Donna Alexander
Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services
Division of Licensing and Regulation
103 S. Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05676
802/241-2158

There are 437 licensed and 546 registered homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Providers caring for children from more than two families must be licensed or registered. There is no fee for either.

A registered provider may have up to 6 children full time with an additional 4 school-age children who are there no more than 4 hours each day.

One licensed provider may have up to 6 children with no more than 2 under the age of 2. If there are 2 providers, the home may have up to 12 children with more more than 3 under the age of 2.

Liability insurance is required.

There must be three parent-provider conferences per year. Parents have unlimited visitation rights.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Homes are inspected before licenses are issued and are inspected annually. Six hours of training per year are required.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. Providers must submit a statement every two years from a doctor stating that she/he is in good health. Five written references for providers and three written references for assistants are required.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Homes that are licensed or registered for six children are exempted from zoning laws and do not have to comply with local ordinances.

VIRGINIA

Address: Karl Rush - Division of Licensing Program
Department of Social Services
8007 Discovery Drive
Richmond, VA 23288
(804) 281-9025

Regulations and Requirements

Licensing is required if there are 6 or more children; the application fee is $10 annually. There may be 6-9 children, including family members under the age of 6.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Homes are inspected prior to issuance of a license and twice a year thereafter. One of those visits will be unannounced. If there is a complaint, a home will be visited. Training for licenses is offered by the Department, from application fees collected.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age and an assistant must be at least 14. Providers must be tested for TB before operating business. Three written references are required.

Special Provisions

Within the maximum of 9 children, the following ratios must be maintained: 1 handicapped child counts as 2; 1 adult is required for every 4 children under age 2; 1 adult is required for every 6 children over age 2. An assistant may be required to maintain these ratios; however, in determining the need for an assistant, school age children in care for no more than 3 hours are not counted.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local child care ordinances, where such ordinances exist.

WASHINGTON

Address: Barry Fibel - Licensing Specialist
Bureau of Children's Services
Mail Stop-OB-41
Olympia, WA 98504
206/753-0204

There are 6,300 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Licenses are required and cost $24 per year. Providers may care for up to 6 children full-time with an additional 4 children part-time. No more than 2 children under the age of 2 are permitted in a family day care home.

Group family day care, referred to as mini-day care programs, may care for up to 12 children, including the caregiver's own and foster children. There must be 2 caregivers whenever there are more than 2 infants; or if there are 6 children and at least 1 of them is under the age of 2; or if there are 8 children and at least one of them is under the age of 3; or if there are more than 10 children. The license for a group home is $48 annually.

Liability insurance is required for transportation only.

A substitute caregiver and an emergency backup are required.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Homes are inspected prior to licensing; after that, homes are visited only in response to a complaint, and at relicensing (every three years). There is no training required for family day care providers; group day care providers must have at least one course in early childhood education and two years experience in child care.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. Three references are required.

Discipline

Physical punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Group homes must comply with local ordinances.

WEST VIRGINIA

Address: Kay Tilton
Department of Human Services
1900 Washington Street, East
Building 6, Room B-850
Charleston, WV 25305
(307) 348-7980

There are 1,300 regulated homes statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Providers receiving federal funds must be approved by the State Department of Human Services. Providers may have up to 6 children with no more than 2 children under the age of 2.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Homes are inspected monthly during the initial training period and twice a year thereafter. Training is done on an individual basis for providers seeking approval. They must reach a competency base.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. An initial physical exam is required. Three written references are required.

Criminal Record Checks/Fingerprints

Criminal record checks and thumbprinting are done for providers and their families at a cost of $5 per person.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances.

WISCONSIN

Address: Dave Edie
Office for Children, Youth and Family
P.O. Box 7851
Madison, WI 53707
608/266-0415

There are 486 licensed homes and 2,500 homes certified for funding statewide.

Regulations and Requirements

Licensing is required for homes with 4 or more children under the age of 7. Certification is required for homes that have fewer than 4 children under the age of 7 and that receive public funds for day care services. The cost of licensing is $10 every two years.

Insurance is required for licensed homes but not for certified homes.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Homes are inspected prior to licensing and annually thereafter. Certified homes are inspected according to county standards and the policy varies.

Forty hours of early childhood education is required in order to be licensed and 15 hours of annual in-service training is required in order to maintain one's license.

Ten hours of training is required for certification.

Provider Qualifications

A family day care provider must be at least 18 years of age. An initial physical exam is required. Two references are required.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Day care homes must comply with local ordinances, but there is a state statute prohibiting municipalities from preventing licensed homes from being located in a zoned district where a single-family residence is a permitted use.

WYOMING

Address: Ken Kaz
Division of Public Assistance
Hathaway Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0710
307/777-6075

Regulations and Requirements

Licensing is required at no cost to the provider. Family day care providers are allowed no more than 6 children, including family members. Group homes permit up to 11 children.

Liability insurance is not required but is strongly recommended.

Inspection, Training and Orientation

Inspection occurs before a home is licensed, and then again annually. Inspections are unannounced. Five clock hours of training are required annually.

Provider Qualifications

There are no age requirements. Physical exams and T.B. tests are required for any household members who participate in caring for the children. Three written references are required.

Discipline

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Zoning

Group homes must follow local zoning codes. In some instances special fees are incurred.